

think they are speaking good French. I wrote a few words of it last year that I characterized as Savage words, believing them to be so. For example, the word, *Ania*, which I have mentioned above, is an alien word,³⁶ the Savages making use of it on every [36] occasion in speaking to the French, and the French in speaking to the Savages, and all use it to say "my brother;" but in the real Savage Tongue of the Montagnais, *Nichtais* means "my eldest brother," *Nichim* "my youngest;" the word *Sagamo* is used by only a few here to say "Captain." The correct word is *Oukhimau*; I believe this word, *Sagamo*, comes from Acadia;³⁷ there are many others like it. When a person first visits a country, he writes a great many things upon the word of others, believing them to be true; time reveals the truth.

I have been told many different things about the customs of these tribes; we shall have time enough to learn how true they are.

I shall say, in passing, that this language is very poor and very rich. It is poor; because, having no knowledge of thousands and [37] thousands of things which are in Europe, they have no names to indicate them. It is rich, because in the things of which they have a knowledge, it is fertile and plentiful; it seems to me that they do not pronounce it well. The Algonquains, who differ from the Montagnais only as the Provençals from the Normans, have a pronunciation that is altogether charming and agreeable.

I do not think that I have ever heard any language spoken which is formed in the same manner as this. Father Brebeuf assures me that the language of the Hurons is of the same construction.